

Tonie M. Thomas

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Art Unit: 2822
Examiner: Toniae M. Thomas

In re PATENT APPLICATION of:

Applicant : Kazutaka SHIBATA)
Serial No. : 10/727,577)
Filed : December 5, 2003)
For : SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE)
AND METHOD FOR)
MANUFACTURING SAME)
Attorney Ref. : AI 254D1)

**INFORMATION
DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT**

July 12, 2006

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is an Information Disclosure Statement submitted pursuant to 37 CFR 1.97-1.98, within the time period specified by 37 CFR 1.97(d).

A fee of \$ 180 is being submitted concurrently. Should this remittance be accidentally missing or insufficient, though, any fees that may be needed can be charged to our Deposit Account number 18-0002.

A form PTO-1449 and copies of the references listed therein are attached. These references were cited in two Office Actions issued by the Japanese Patent Office on the two Japanese priority applications that are listed in the inventor's declaration forming part of the present U.S. application. Copies of the Japanese Office Actions are attached, along with English translations to show the relevance of the references.

The Japanese Offices Actions were issued on June 27, 2006 and July 4, 2006. Accordingly, the following statement is made pursuant to 37 CFR 1.97(e)(1): Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a

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fee to our Deposit Account
No. 18-0002

communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

To provide further English language information about the relevance of the references listed on the accompanying form PTO-1449, Patent Abstracts of Japan summaries and machine-generated English translations are attached for some of the references. Further English language information about other references listed on the form PTO-1449 is available in the form of corresponding U.S. references, as follows:

Reference listed on <u>Form 1449</u>	<u>Apparent U.S. Counterpart</u>
JP 2001-168275	6,251,705
JP 10-223833	2005/0014311 & 6,809,412
JP 10-502493	5,902,118
JP 2001-057404	2005/0146032, 2005/0146056, 2005/0146055 & 6,870,248
JP 2001-196525	2001/0008794 & 2002/0146859
JP 2001-177045	2004/0262735, 2003/0102547 & 2001/0004130

Copies of these U.S. counterparts are attached, but the counterparts are not listed on the attached form PTO-1449 because this would be inconsistent with the above statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e)(1).

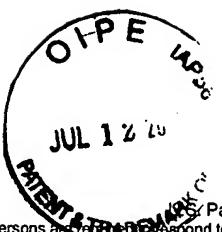
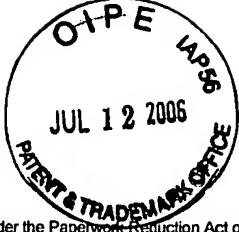
Since a Notice of Allowance issued on July 10, 2006, the \$180 fee specified by 37 CFR 1.17(p) is being submitted concurrently.

It is respectfully requested that the references listed on the attached form PTO-1449 be considered (with the aid of the attached English language information about their relevance) and made of record.

Respectfully submitted,



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Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	10/727,577
				Filing Date	December 5, 2003
				First Named Inventor	Kazutaka Shibata
				Art Unit	2822
				Examiner Name	T. M. Thomas
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	AI-254D1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number Number-Kind Code ² (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
BA	JP-2001-57404	02-27-2001			US Counterpart
BB	JP-2001-168275	06-22-2001			US Counterpart
BC	JP-11-345933	12-14-1999			✓
BD	JP-10-223833	08-21-1998			US Counterpart
BE	JP-10-502493	03-03-1998			US Counterpart
BF	JP-2001-53218	02-23-2001			✓
BG	JP-2001-319995	11-16-2001			✓
BH	JP-1-218042	08-31-1989			Abstract
BI	JP-2001-196525	07-19-2001			US Counterpart
BJ	JP-2001-177045	06-29-2001			US Counterpart
BK	JP-2000-323645	11-24-2000			✓

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.			²

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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